

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 342

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REPLY TO LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN WAXMAN

REF: DAMASCUS 898 (SECTO 126)

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. YOUR DRAFT LETTER HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH L AND H. DIRGEN
PROPOSES CERTAIN ADDITIONS AND MINOR EDITING AS FOLLOWS:

A. INSERT AT BEGINNING OF FOURTH PARA. WHICH BEGINS "THE
DEPT OF STATE FOR ITS PART PURSUES..." THE FOLLOWING:
"WHILE WE DO NOT KEEP RECORDS ON THE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS
OF FOREIGN SERVICE EMPLOYEES, IT IS KNOWN FROM PERSONAL
RECOLLECTION THAT THERE HAVE BEEN PERSONNEL OF JEWISH FAITH
ASSIGNED TO ARAB COUNTRIES. WE DO NOT KNOW OF A PRESENT
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OR RECENT CASE IN SAUDI ARABIA."

B. FIFTH PARA. TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL OF THE JEWISH FAITH HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED IN THE RECENT PAST TO SERVE IN SAUDI ARABIA NOR DO WE RECALL ANY WHO HAVE SOUGHT ASSIGNMENTS THERE, WE CANNOT STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS IS THE CASE BECAUSE OUR PERSONNEL RECORDS DO NOT INDICATE

THE RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OR CONVICTION OF ANY INDIVIDUAL. IF SUCH AN OFFICER APPLIED FOR AN ASSIGNMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE APPLICATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. PRACTICALLY, JEWISH OFFICERS IN GENERAL HAVE DECLINED TO SEEK ASSIGNMENTS TO COUNTRIES KNOWN TO BE HOSTILE TO JEWS. MOREOVER, JEWISH OFFICERS, IN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN CAREER ASPIRATIONS, WOULD NOT FIND SERVICE IN ARAB COUNTRIES ATTRACTIVE AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT CUSTOMARILY SEEK TRAINING IN ARABIC LANGUAGE (WHICH REQUIRES TWO YEARS) OR NEAR EASTERN STUDIES. WITHOUT THAT TRAINING MANY OFFICERS LACK THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS TO TAKE ON SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS IN ARAB COUNTRIES."

2. I THINK THESE ARE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMEND YOUR CLEARANCE.
INGERSOLL

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